

DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SIMPSON:

Q Mr. David, you are connected with the Prosecutor's office of Middlesex County? A Yes sir.

Q What is the official connection?

A Chief of County Detectives.

Q How long have you been such continuously?

A Close to six years.

Q So that on the 14th of September 1922 you held that office?

A Yes sir.

Q When were you first put on this case?

A On the Monday afternoon following the finding of the bodies. They were found on Saturday and I was brought into it on the following Monday Afternoon?

Q Did you see Mrs Hall after the bodies were found at any time?

A Mrs. Hall?

Q Yes.? I mean the widow? A Yes.

Q How long after the murder had been committed was the first interview you had with her?

A That was when she was brought to the Prosecutor's office.

Q That is the 23rd of September? A Yes.

Q You hadn't seen her up until that time?

A No sir.

Q Had you gone there to try to see her?

A Nosir.

Q Now, did you get any garments from the Hall Place which had been dyed?

A Yes sir.

Q Can you point them out here? A This scarf.

Q Is that all that you got? A This coat.

Q A lady's coat? A Yes sir.

Q Where did you get ~~these~~ these?

A They were brought by Detective Totten, I believe or one of the men in my office who had gone down to the Hall home to bring them in. They were brought right direct to me.

Q Did you ascertain they had been dyed?

A Yes sir.

Q Where did you ascertain they had been dyed?

A Through Miss Sallie Peters who had given us that information.

Q How did she come into the case first, Miss Peters?

A Either at the funeral of Dr. Hall or shortly after, some few days after. She was an old friend of Mrs. Hall's, and old school mate or something and had come there and remained with her for a couple of weeks after the murder.

Q Was she going back and forth between Mrs. Hall and the prosecutor's office upto the time Mrs. Hall was examined?

A I think she had been there once or twice.

Q Well, did you get these dyed garments before Mrs.

Hall was examined or afterwards? A Before.

Q ~~aff~~ Did you ascertain where they had been dyed?

A In Philadelphia was the information we received.

That they had been dyed in Philadelphia.

Q Did you get intoh with Mrs. Hall or anyone from your office and get any information from her as to why she had sent these garments to Phila. to be dyed?

A That information, I believe, was gotten through Detective Totten of Somerset.

Q Did you ascertain what color this coat was before it was dyed?

A Only what I am told.

Q Told by Mrs. Hall or told by either of the defendants?

A Mrs. Hall told ~~me~~ afterwards. We showed her these things and we talked about these identical things.

She said yes, this had been a light brown, a light tan color, I understood her to say.

Q Did she say why she had sent it to Phila., to be dyed?

A Because of wanting to wear Black after Dr. Hall was buried.

Q Did she say why she didn't have them dyed in Newark or Elizabeth or New Brunswick?

A No.

Q Why she didn't send it to Elizabeth nor dyers in New Brunswick?

A I didn't question her on that at all.

Q You didn't ask her that? A No.

Q But you did find out that before they were dyed the coat was a brown you say?

A A tan color, yes.

Q What did you ascertain the scarf was?

A The scarf, if I remember right, was something on a gray if I am not mistaken.

Q Did you go into the Hall Home at any time and search for fire arms or letters or papers?

A I went there with Detective Totten.

Q About when? A That was possibly two weeks after the bodies were found.

Q Who did you see?

A He and I went together and we saw Mrs. Hall. Detective Totten explained what was wanted.

Q What did he say?

A He said he wanted the private papers of Dr. Hall and wanted to examine the desk in his study for any papers that we might want. she showed us upstairs and sat

in the room while the Detective Totten looked through the desk, a flat top desk, if I remember, was in the center of the study and while we were there, while we was looking for different things, she asked if we wanted the private papers. Detective Totten said that he did and she ~~went~~ went from the study to the bed room and brought out a tin box with some of his private papers.

Q Do you know whose bed room? A His and hers, as I understood from the maid; they used it together.

Q Out of her/ bed room she brought -

A This tin box.

Q And out of that box she took his private papers?

A Yes.

Q Do you know anything about the clothes of the deceased at all? Did you have anything to do with them at all.

Q The only thing that I had to do with them, after they were taken off the bodies, here in Somerville, when all the exhibits ~~had~~ and the work was to be done from our office on account of being the most handy point, these things were brought down? In fact, all of the Exhibits were brought to our office and put in the safe during the night and brought out from day to day.

Q Who gave you the exhibits? Who gave them to you?

A. They came from the Prosecutor's Office and Detective Totten brought them to our office.

Q. How long were these exhibits in your office ?

A? Well, I should judge they were there at least six or eight weeks, that long anyhow, if not longer, or possibly up to the time that Mott took charge of the investigation.

Q. When did you cease control of the exhibits ? When did they go out of your office ?

A. They went out when the rest of this stuff went away and that was during Mott's time, and everything was turned over to Mott. Then the papers and all the exhibits were turned over to Prosecutor Beekman and Beekman and Totten brought them to Somerville. I understood they were brought away and put in the safe.

Q. Do you remember whether you turned over any cuff buttons or clerical collar or shirt ?

A. Yes, sir, there was a pair of cuff buttons, turned down collar - not clerical collar - white tie with gold clasp on to it, pair of eye glasses, there were a number of letters, there was a Masonic card, with two or three business cards, there were several of Doctor Hall's own personal cards, and if I remember right there was a billfold, there was a handkerchief or two, and I think that is all.

Q. These handkerchiefs have any initials on ?

A. I won't say for sure. I don't remember. I don't think so. I think the only handkerchief of Doctor Hall's had no initial on.

Q. When you first got into the case how long was it after the murder ?

A. The murder was on the 14th, on Thursday, and we were drawn into it the following Monday afternoon.

Q. Had the bodies been buried then ?

A. Yes, sir -- no, not Monday afternoon they had't. They were buried on Tuesday afternoon.

Q. They were buried Monday, weren't them ? Doctor Hall was buried Monday ?

A. And Mrs. Mills was buried on Tuesday.

Q. Did you ascertain whether there had been an autopsy performed ?

A. I supposed there had been until Wednesday morning when I spoke to Detective Totten about it.

Q. What did you ascertain about the autopsy ?

A. I ascertained no regular autopsy had been performed.

Q. What did you direct should be done ?

A. I said, "There should be one done at once."

And at that time Assistant Prosecutor Toolan came in and he spoke of it at the same time and then Prosecutor Stricker said to Beekman, "You had better get busy right

away and get these bodies up and perform an autopsy or you will be in trouble," or something to that effect.

Q. Up to that time did you know that the woman's throat had been cut ? A. No, sir.

Q. Did you get any information from the Prosecutor of this county or anybody that the throat had been cut, up to the time of the autopsy ?

A. No, but there was rumors after a while that Doctor Hall's body had been mutilated and there was a question whether Mrs. Mills throat had been cut, but there was a question because of the maggots and flies, but there was nothing sure about that until the autopsy was performed in Coroner Hubbard's office on Bayard Street in New Brunswick.

Q. Were you there ? A. Yes.

Q. What did you ascertain about Mrs. Mills/^{throat}being cut ?

A. Totten and I sat in an automobile and the autopsy was performed in the garage and Doctor Hagaman, Doctor A. L. Smith and Doctor Cronk~~y~~ were there doing the work and Doctor Long came in and looked on, and they started in on the body. Doctor Hagaman did the work. He started to examine this body, had been around sometime. He started to examine it and threw the head back and he says, "This woman's throat has been cut." They all looked and agreed to that. Looked again, twisted her

head around, he says, "She has been slashed twice and by the looks of this" -- threw her head back further -- "it looks as if the vertebrae had been almost severed." They went on with their autopsy and when they went to throw her scalp back, he flapped it back and said, "Here is a bullet", and they agreed among themselves that it looked like a thirty-two caliber bullet. They laid it down and went on with the autopsy and found, I believe, that she had been shot altogether four times. Now, I don't remember whether they found two bullets or three bullets, but they were removed and layed out in an envelope and were afterwards given to Totten and brought here and that went in as part of our exhibits and was brought away finally with the rest of that stuff.

Q. How many bullets were in your possession when you gave them to the Prosecutor here ?

A. There were either two or three.

Q. Do you ~~ever~~ remember ever seeing any locket among these effects, these exhibits ? Did you ever find any locket, any locket being among the exhibits ?

A. No, I did not.

Q. You don't remember that ? A. No, sir.

Q. Can you from memory tell how many exhibits were turned over to the Prosecutor of Somerset ?

A. You mean outside of the clothing ?

Q. Let us get everything we can as far as you remember?

A. Well, there was all of the clothing of Mrs. Mills.

Q. Is it there ? A. Yes, sir.

Q. It is in that box ? A. Yes.

Q. And all of the clothing of Doctor Hall ?

A. Yes, sir. And besides that there was eye glasses. There was a clip which I think is still on the necktie, turned down collar, there was a white shirt, there was the pair of cuff buttons, there was a Masonic card, two or three business letters or personal letters, there were these letters here, those love letters, and several of his old personal visiting cards and a billfold.

Q. Those were all turned over to Prosecutor Beekman ?
Now, there was some talk here about Mr. Fitzpatrick in your office ? A. Yes.

Q. He has since passed on ?

A. He has since passed on, yes, sir.

Q. What connection did he have with the case ?

A. He was a fingerprint expert.

Q. There is some talk here he did take prints from these letters?

A. He tried to. Him and I looked them over carefully together. I know a little of it. He looked it over carefully under a glass, all of these exhibits, and

there was nothing plain enough that he figured that reproduction could be made.

Q. He didn't take any ? A. No, sir.

Q. You don't know whether any prints were taken by anybody for Mr. Mott after your office got out of the case, do you ?

A. No. I don't know how they could have been.

Q. Was Mr. Schwartz called in from Newark ?

A. Yes, but that was by Mott. We had nothing to do with that. That was weeks afterwards.

Q. Have you any recollection of the date when Mr. Mott took hold of this thing ?

A. No, I don't know, but it was quite a number of weeks afterwards, I should judge eight or ten weeks. It must have been September - October, I think. I won't say for sure, but I think sometime in November.

Q. Do you know anything about the card that was propped up against the Doctor's foot, or said to have been when the body was found ?

A. No, I don't know anything about that because I wasn't there at all. I saw nothing of the bodies.

Q. And that is practically all you know about the case, is it ? I mean you didn't interview Mrs. Hall ?

A. No. I was present, of course ---

Q. Did you ever make any search of the house of Mr.

Carpender that is under arrest, Henry Carpende ?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you not get a search warrant to search Henry Steven's house ?

A. No, sir.

Q. Or Mr. William Stevens ?

A. No, sir. All of that work was under Beekman, of course, and we were working under his direction.

Q. Were you -- did you ever find at the scene of the ~~accident~~ crime a bloody burlap bag or burlap bag containing newspapers at the scene of the crime ?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you ever have any information about that or know who found it ?

A. No, sir.

Q. You never saw it ?

A. Never saw it. The only thing that we had there was a handkerchief, bloody handkerchief brought in that was found -- supposed to have been found by a newspaper reporter, brought it up and said that was found at the scene of the crime. They had the initial L on them in the corner.

Q. Was it a woman's handkerchief or a man's handkerchief?

A. A woman's handkerchief.

Q. And had the initial "L" in it ?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know Mrs. Harkins ?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Didn't she call your attention to this burlap bag

with the newspapers and didn't you say , "That has been analyzed and that is chicken blood." ? Do you remember any conversation of that kind ? A. No.

Q. You never saw this burlap bag or the newspapers ?

A. No. I knew Mrs. Harkins. She saw Mrs. Mills, I believe, get off the car the night she was murdered.

Q. About this handkerchief, was that turned over to Beekman?/

A. Yes, sir, that went over to the exhibits.

Q. That is, you don't hold your office responsible for any exhibits ?

A. No, they were merely brought to our office to have them handy in any case.

Q. Can you tell us ~~why~~^{why} this murder occurred in Somerset County, ~~or~~ Middlesex County investigated this murder ? Can you ~~show~~ any light on it ? Can you tell us why this inquiry brought in Somerset County was transferred to Middlesex County ?

A. Well, it was out of kindness of Prosecutor Stricker when Mr. Beeckman came and hollered for help because most of the people interested in it were living in New Brunswick and the prosecutor said, "We will give you all the help we can." For that reason he assigned me to assist Totten. We had to take all the abuse of it.

Q.¹/₂ You can't throw any more light on this than you have?

A. No, sir.

MR. SIMPSON: Cross examine.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PFEIFFER:

Q. Mr. David, did you say that Mr. Fitzpatrick of your office endeavored to take fingerprint impressions of the articles that were found around the bodies ?

examined them

A. I said that both him and I/ and him particularly, under glass to see if impressions were clear enough to take.

Q. And you came to the conclusion they weren't clear enough ?

A. No, sir, they weren't.

Q. Now, Mr. David, with respect to Mrs. Hall's scarf and coat, you subsequently ascertained, did you not, that she through Mrs. William Bearman had sent the scarf and coat to A. F. Bornot and Company, is that correct ?

A. In Philadelphia ?

Q. In Philadelphia.

A. I don't know as it came through Mrs. Bearman, it was through some relatives or friends that had suggested them to do that work.

Q. Don't you know that Mrs. Hall told you, or someone at one of the hearings or at sometime, that she sent it to A. F. Bornot and Company in the first place because she had had her dyeing done there always, and that when

her mother died, Mrs. Stevens, several years before, she had sent her clothing then to be dyed to the same establishment ?

A. I never heard that, I never understood that.

Q. You never understood that was the case ?

A. It might have been said ---

Q. Oh, it was said, that is the fact.

MR. SIMPSON: He says it wasn't.

THE COURT: As far as he knows.

MR. PFEIFFER: That is all.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SIMPSON:

Q. In this investigation did you make any investigation of this place in Philadelphia ?

A. I sent one of my men, Detective Charles Collins, who took up the Philadelphia end of it.

Q. Did he report back to you ?

A. He reported back that the stuff had come there and had been died and had been sent back to New Brunswick.

Q. If Mrs. Hall made this statement to anybody that counsel says that this concern often died stuff for her, was any investigation made of that remark ?

A. I never heard of that and I didn't instruct them because of not knowing it.

RE-CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PFEIFFER:

Q. Did Detective Collins report to you that he had been told by A. F. Bornot and Company that there was anything unusual about these garments when they were sent ?

A. No, only when he went there he went with the instructions to ask them if a careful examination had been made of them before they were put into the dye. They told him that that was always done on every piece of goods of any quality so that if the dye didn't take in proper shape and showed, for instance, a different shade, there would be no comeback to them, it would be to the folks that had sent it in. They were asked if bloodstains would make a difference into it and they said yes, it would make some difference.

Q. Did they say whether they did find any bloodstains ?

A. They said they hadn't and the garment had been sent back in perfect condition and no complaint had been given after to them, and as a result they figured it was all right.

RE-DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SIMPSON:

Q. Did Collins also tell you that this conversation in Philadelphia showed they had never died anything else for Mrs. Hall before or never had ?

A. I think that was said.

Q.- Where is Collins?/

A. You can get him in the morning.

Q. I wish you would get him here ?

A. He will be here.

RE-CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PFEIFFER:

Q. Mr. David, isn't it correct that Detective Collins when the statement came out that Mrs. Hall had previously had things dyed there, isn't it a fact that Detective Collins went to A. F. Bornot and Company for the purpose of ascertaining whether Mrs. Hall had sent anything to A. F. Bornot at the time of her mother's death, which was several years previous to 1922, and that he was informed that they had no record of it ?

A. Now, I am not clear on that and as long as he is coming in in the morning I think you had better leave that to him.

BY MR. SIMPSON:

Q. Did you find out when Mrs. Hall sent this to be dyed ?

A. I think he has the dates and everything.

MR. SIMPSON: That is all.

(At this time the hearing was adjourned until Tuesday morning, August 17, 1926, at ten o'clock.)